

[Thanks to the Union]

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Duplicate Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth

ADDRESS 47 West 69 Street

DATE March 14, 1939

SUBJECT Thanks To the Union

1. Date and time of interview

Week of March 6th.

2. Place of interview

Stewart's Cafeteria, 2085 Broadway

3. Name and address of informant

Rob Kimmel, No names to be used. Omit Chain Name

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

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Mr. Al. Hirsch, educational director of Local 302, Cafeteria Union

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Messinie of Cafeteria

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM B Personal History of Informant

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth

ADDRESS 47 West 69 Street

DATE March 14, 1939

SUBJECT Thanks To The Union

1. Ancestry

Not given

2. Place and date of birth

Johnstown, Pa. 26 years of age

3. Family

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Not given

4. Places lived in, with dates

Johnstown, Pa. New York City

5. Education, with dates

Public School. 2 years of High School. Night courses at N.Y.U. and Local 302 in Trade Journalism

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

Relief counterman

7. Special skills and interests

Journalism

8. Community and religious activities

Not given

9. Description of informant

Height about 5'4", weight, approx. 130, blonde hair, blue eyes, very pleasant face. My guess is dutch ancestry. Informant is very much interested in making a place for himself as a writer of articles. Is attending Trade Journalism [?][?][?][?] and is proud of the fact that he has had an article with a by line, in the Cafeteria Call. Hopes to be a free lance writer and remain in the Food industry until such time as he can support himself by his writings.

10. Other Points gained in interview

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FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth

ADDRESS 47 West 69 Street

DATE March 14, 1939

SUBJECT Thanks to the Union

THANKS TO THE UNION

Sure we have a wonderful local. That 302 is one of the best unions you can find in any trade. The whole trouble is that up to two years ago the whole thing was controlled by gunmen. You read in the papers about the racketeers, didn't you? So all the food workers never got a thing outa the union. All they knew was they paid money to the guys that came around. An' they got nothin' for it. Now we gotta get the members usta usin' the union. We got classes there now. Like me. I belong to the Labor Journalism class. Look in the next issue of The Call. I'm gonna have a by line there. That isn't the only thing. Twice a week I go to N.Y.U. I'm studyin' Journalism. When I get off duty now, you know what I have to do? I have to go home and write 750 words for homework. Those words: It keeps buzzing in my head. 750 words for homework; 600 words for Monday's class. And besides that, I have to polish up my article. And It's not like the way you have to do it. My construction has to be perfect, or else it's no good.

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Being a relief counterman is as good as anything a guy can get today, thanks to the union. I get 43¢ an hour, vacation with pay, the best food in the house. Even better than the trade gets. That's because we know what's doing in the kitchen. And remember this. All you can eat. If you want two desserts, that's O.K. The hours are good now, too. Eight hour day, with two relief periods.

The whole crew here swears by the union and little by little, most of them are starting to get interested in the life of the union. At first they were suspicious. YOU know. We're paying dues, so what more does the union want. But when they look around they see that that's not enough. So a lot of them are taking part in the activities. I sit in on the executive board. Another fellow here, he's our shop chairman now, he's taking up movie photography to be the union photographer. He never took pictures before, but he had an accordion and he thought he'd study music. But he figured out that you have to get a push from someone to get any place with music. So he walked into a swap shop and turned in the accordion for a small movie camera. Now he's getting 3 fellows to put in some money for the best of everything, film, and whatever else he needs. He'll take pictures of the union dances, the picnics, etc. And now he's got a swell idea. He's taking pictures to show the life of a cafeteria worker. He took pictures of the counterman doing his job. Then he shows him looking at the clock. It's 4 o'clock. Time to go home. Next, he shows the man walking on the street to the subway. Now they have to get shots of him in the subway, and in his home. What he has to do now is get permission from the chain to take 3 a lot of pictures around the job. You see what I'm gettin at? He's only been a Cafeteria worker two years, and before that he lived in Pennsylvania, so what did he know about the food workers. Now he's getting to be a good active member.

He isn't the only one. There's a fellow, Louis, works for the Exchange Buffet. So one day Mr. Millett, the boss, calls the workers together and tells them that business is very slow and that they should co-operate with the firm and take a cut. So this Louis speaks right up to the boss and says: "For forty five years your business made a profit and you never

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asked us to share it. Now you come to us and ask us to share your losses.” So Mr. Millett tells them that they are all free to look for another job if they don't like the conditions in the chain. Just like telling them to go back to Russia if they don't like it here. So one of the other workers there says, “Listen, Mr. Millett, the slaves down south didn't go back to Africa. They stayed here and freed themselves.” You can see that they've got what it takes to make a real militant union. Maybe it's a little slow in bringing it out, but they'll fall in.

Then there are two sisters in our local. One is active and the other one isn't interested in the local at all. In fact, she says she'd rather not be known as the first one's sister. That's funny, isn't it. But things like that happen.

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Food Worker's language. Gone from the Cafeterias. Used only along waterfront and in diners.

Ethopian Muffins.....burnt muffins

Poached eggs on toast.....Adam and Eve on a raft

Scrambled eggs.....Adam and Eve hot and bothered

Griddle Cakes.....Pack of wheaties

Two fried eggs.....Make 2 look at me

Two fried eggs over.....Blind 'em

Corned beef hash.....Yesterday's corned beef

Bowl of soup.....One without the thumb

Strawberry Jello.....Jack Benny in the red

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A glass of milk.....Jersey cocktail or Sweet Alice or Holstein highball

A light coffee.....Make a blonde

A black coffee.....Make a brunette

Virginia ham.....Southern Swine

Dish of Spaghetti.....A yard of

Ham and eggs.....Two cackles in oil, in the Southern way

Orange Juice.....Hug one

Bottle of Coca-Cola.....Pop one

Glass of Coca-Cola.....Stretch one Glass of Glass of Coco-Cola with
chocolate.....Drag one thru Georgia

Large glass of milk.....Stretch sweet Alice

Malted Milk.....A yard of cement

Sandwich to go out.....Put a step on it.

5

USED IN CAFETERIAS

Pretty Girl customer.....89

Good looking male customer.....89 on toast

Glass of water.....81

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All out; there is no more.....86